

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PEPR, YO, UR

SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON VEST

1. LUXEMBOURG AMBASSADOR MEISCH CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST MARCH 10 TO HEAR U.S. VIEWS ON TITO VISIT, SALT, BELGRADE CONFERENCE, AND SCHARANSKIY AFFAIR. VEST SAID U.S. SOUGHT TO CONVEY TO TITO OUR MAXIMUM SUPPORT FOR CONTINUITY IN YUGOSLAVIA, WHICH WAS THE REASON FOR INVITATION TO U.S. FIRST DAY'S TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT WERE ENTIRELY ON MAJOR WORLD TOPICS -- AFRICAN HORN, MIDDLE EAST, CHINA AND KOREA. DISCUSSIONS SHOWED CONSIDERABLE HARMONY WITH TITO OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN HORN, AND TITO, IN T.V. BROADCAST HERE LATER, CALLED FOR SOVIET AND CUBA
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WITHDRAWAL ONCE PEACE WAS RESTORED. ON KOREA, WE MADE CLEAR TO TITO THERE WOULD BE NO DISCUSSIONS WITH NORTH KOREA THAT DID NOT INCLUDE SOUTH KOREA.

2. SECOND ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND TITO WAS MORE ON EUROPEAN AND LDC MATTERS. TITO ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN CAUSES OF USSR SUSPICION TOWARD THE U.S., CITING

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND SADAT INITIATIVES IN MIDDLE EAST, WHICH SOVIETS FELT WERE ORCHESTRATED BY U.S. AS FOR BILATERAL MATTERS, QUESTION OF ARMS SALES OR SUCCESSOR TO TITO WERE NEVER RAISED. IN SUMMARY,

THE VISIT WAS VIEWED AS MOST SATISFACTORY, THE DISCUSSIONS FRANK AND FRIENDLY, AND THE YUGOSLAVS APPARENTLY WERE QUITE PLEASED.

3. MEISCH ASKED IF TITO HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER FUTURE EAST-WEST RELATIONS. VEST SAID TITO STRONGLY FAVORED A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND BREZHNEV. IF BREZHNEV'S HEALTH IS DECLINING, WE SHOULD NOT LOSE TIME. WE SHOULD MOVE AHEAD ON SALT AND DO SEEM TO BE MOVING. THE IDEAL TIME WOULD BE BEFORE THE RUSSIAN VACATION PERIOD AND THE U.S. ELECTIONS. THE SOVIETS HAVE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO VISIT BY BREZHNEV UNTIL WE ARE MATERIALLY WELL ALONG ON SALT. TO MEISCH'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH REASONS FOR A SUMMIT WITHOUT SALT, VEST REPLIED THAT THE U.S. FELT THERE WERE, THAT WE HAD EXTENDED AN INVITATION AND REPEATED IT, BECAUSE WE FEEL THE RELATIONSHIP IS SO IMPORTANT, BUT THE USSR HAD SAID NO.

4. ON BELGRADE VEST SAID WE HAD FOUND NO SCOPE FOR NEW ADVANCES ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE DID CONFIDENTIAL

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REVIEW THE PROGRESS TO DATE ON ALL ASPECTS OF CSCE AGREEMENT. ESTABLISHING THAT THIS IS A QTE SELF-EXAMINING UNQTE DOCUMENT FOR THE SITUATION IN EUROPE WAS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR. BELGRADE HAD ACHIEVED WHAT COULD REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED.

5. MEISCH ASKED IF THE SCHARANSKIY AFFAIR WOULD BE A MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE U.S. VEST SAID IT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW THE SOVIETS PURSUED IT; IT COULD CREATE SERIOUS NEGATIVE PUBLIC REACTIONS HERE. MEISCH SAID HE HAD RECENTLY HEARD FROM A CANADIAN MFA OFFICIAL THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN OTTAWA HAD SAID THE RUSSIANS NOT ONLY INTENDED TO CONVICT SCHARANSKIY BUT TO EXECUTE HIM AS WELL. VEST SAID THIS WOULD CREATE VERY SERIOUS NEGATIVE REACTION IN THE U.S. WE HAD HEARD NOTHING TO THIS EFFECT. VANCE

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